

I worked in television for years and now teach it to others. The Sinclair Broadcastings decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This disturbing abuse of media power is a strong lesson for the young people I teach. It starkly illustrates what we've been discussing in class about the negative impact of the money driven media giants.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced as "news central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.